

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

October 3, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) for funding in the Integrated Mobility Innovation Demonstration Research program.

I understand that COTA seeks funding to implement a regional, cloud-based traffic management system. This system, using artificial intelligence technology, would improve the efficiency of transit, ease the flow of traffic, and heighten "mobility on-demand" capabilities. Already, traffic management AI has been implemented across 380 miles of roadway in the city of Columbus. As the fastest growing population center in the Midwest, Columbus demands reliable and efficient public transportation.

Assistance from your agency would allow COTA to expand its traffic management system to 25,000 miles of roadway in the Central Ohio region. Further, this expansion of AI technologies would allow COTA to continue in the development of efficient communication between local agencies, traffic management centers, and emergency services. Through streamlining these services, COTA will improve the commuter experience, access to services, and quality of life for this growing city.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my Grant Coordinator, Avery Pierson, at (202) 224-3353. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator